This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 and 12-20 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A computerized method for auctioning products or services over a computer network, comprising the steps of:

initiating an auction in response to a request from an auctioneer computer;

in response to the initiation of the auction, receiving one or more bids from each of a first plurality of ~~bidders~~ bidder computers;

selecting a second plurality of bidder computers ~~bidders~~ from the first plurality of ~~bidders~~ bidder computers;

designating, in turn, each one of the second plurality of bidder computers ~~bidders~~ as a select bidder computer ~~bidder~~ until one of an acceptance of either a bid from one of the second plurality of bidder computers ~~bidders~~ or a rejection of all bids from each of the second plurality of bidder computers ~~bidders~~ occurs;

for each select bidder computer,

sending one or more bids from the select bidder computer to the auctioneer computer;

sending one or more auctioneer bids from the auctioneer computer to the select bidder computer; and

receiving an agreement or a termination of bidding from one of the auctioneer computer or the select bidder computer.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, wherein the auctioneer computer represents ~~is~~ a seller of goods or services.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, wherein the auctioneer computer represents ~~is~~ a buyer of goods or services.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, wherein the request includes product/service specifications for a product/service which an auctioneer at the auctioneer computer wishes to sell or buy, a set of alternative payment specifications acceptable to the auctioneer, a set of alternative shipment term specifications acceptable to the auctioneer; and

wherein each bid identifies one of the set of alternative payment specifications acceptable to the auctioneer, one of the set of alternative shipment specifications acceptable to the auctioneer, and a desired price for the product/service identified by the product/service specifications.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein the request from the auctioneer computer includes an auction specification, and wherein the method further comprises the step of for each of the one or more bids, verifying that the bid is from an authorized bidder computer based upon the auction specification.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of claim 7 further comprising defining a pre-qualification criteria for the first plurality of bidder computers bidders to satisfy before being selected as one of the second plurality of bidder computers bidders.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A computerized method for auctioning a product or a service over a computer network, the computerized method comprising:
presenting product terms or service terms associated with the product or the service by a first computer;
receiving at the first computer one or more bids related to the product or the service from one or more bidder computers bidders;
selecting at the first computer a bid from the one or more bids; and
negotiating between the first computer and a bidder computer associated with the bid one or more terms of the product terms or the service terms with the bidder associated with the bid.

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Claim 23 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 22 wherein selecting a bid is determined by predetermined criteria.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 22 comprising agreeing to the one or more terms.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 22 where negotiating comprises one or more firm offers and one or more firm counter offers.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 22 where the product terms or the service terms comprise product or service specifications, payment specifications, shipment terms, grade, packing specification, quality, quantity, origin, destination, payment terms, bank, currency, shipping dates, and/or auction specifications.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 22 comprising maintaining the bids not selected.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 22 comprising terminating the negotiating due to a time lapse.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 28 comprising selecting one of the one or more bids.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 28 comprising rejecting all of the one or more bids.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 30 comprising paying a fee.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A computerized method for auctioning a product or a service <u>over a computer network</u>, the computerized method comprising:
presenting product terms or service terms associated with the product or the service <u>by a first computer</u>;
receiving <u>at the first computer</u> one or more bids related to the product or the service from one or more <u>bidder computers</u> ~~bidders~~;
selecting <u>at the first computer</u> a first bid and a second bid from the one or more bids;
nominating <u>at the first computer</u> the first bid or the second bid; and
negotiating <u>between the first computer and a first bidder computer or a second bidder computer associated with the first bid or the second bid</u> one or more terms of the product terms or the service terms ~~with the bidder associated with the first bid or the second bid~~.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 32 wherein selecting a bid is determined by predetermined criteria.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 32 where the product terms or the service terms comprise product or service specifications, payment specifications, shipment terms, grade, packing specification, quality, quantity, origin, destination, payment terms, bank, currency, shipping dates, and/or auction specifications.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 32 wherein selecting a first bid and a second bid is determined by predetermined criteria.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 32 comprising agreeing to the one or more terms.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 32 where negotiating comprises one or more firm offers and one or more firm counter offers.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A computerized method for auctioning a product or a service <u>over a computer network</u>, the computerized method comprising:
sending <u>from a computer</u> a bid for the product or the service to an auctioneer <u>computer</u>;
receiving notice <u>at the computer</u> of selection of the bid <u>from the auctioneer computer</u>; and
negotiating <u>between the computer and the auctioneer computer</u> one or more terms of a product terms or a service terms ~~with the auctioneer~~.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 38 where the auctioneer <u>computer represents</u> ~~is~~ a seller.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 38 where the auctioneer <u>computer represents</u> ~~is~~ a buyer.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 38 where the product terms or the service terms comprise product or service specifications, payment specifications, shipment terms, grade, packing specification, quality, quantity, origin, destination, payment terms, bank, currency, shipping dates, and/or auction specifications.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 38 comprising agreeing to the one or more terms.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 38 where negotiating comprises one or more firm offers and one or more firm counter offers.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A computerized method for auctioning a product or a service <u>over a computer network</u>, the computerized method comprising:

presenting product terms or service terms associated with the product or the service <u>by an auctioneer computer</u>;

sending <u>by a computer</u> a bid for the product or the service to ~~an~~ <u>the</u> auctioneer <u>computer</u>;

receiving <u>at the auctioneer computer</u> one or more bids related to the product or the service from one or more <u>bidder computers</u> ~~bidders~~;

selecting <u>at the auctioneer computer</u> a bid from the one or more bids; and

negotiating one or more terms of the product terms or the service terms between the auctioneer <u>computer</u> and ~~the~~ <u>a</u> bidder <u>computer</u> associated with the selected bid.

Claim 45 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 44 where the auctioneer <u>computer represents</u> ~~is~~ a seller.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 44 where the auctioneer <u>computer represents</u> ~~is~~ a buyer.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 44 where the product terms or the service terms comprise product or service specifications, payment specifications, shipment terms, grade, packing specification, quality, quantity, origin, destination, payment terms, bank, currency, shipping dates, and/or auction specifications.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 44 wherein selecting a bid is determined by predetermined criteria.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 44 comprising agreeing to the one or more terms <u>between the auctioneer computer and the bidder computer</u>.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The computerized method of claim 44 where negotiating comprises one or more firm offers and one or more firm counter offers.